

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Application Number 09/851,247

Our Ref: A7966
Art Unit: 2874

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A fiber optic cable, comprising:

an outer layer;
at least one optical fiber disposed inside said outer layer;
at least one gel-swellable portion proximate to an inner surface of said outer layer; and
a water resistant gel positioned adjacent to said gel-swellable portion and disposed
between said outer layer and said optical fiber;
wherein said gel-swellable portion has a density of less than 0.90 g/cc and said outer
layer has a density of at least 0.90 g/cc.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at
least one gel-swellable portion is a continuous layer surrounding said at least one optical fiber.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at
least one gel-swellable portion has an uneven thickness.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at
least one gel-swellable portion has a smooth surface.

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5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has at least one groove in a surface of said at least one gel-swellable portion.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is made from at least one longitudinally running strip.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, further comprising a second gel-swellable portion positioned between said gel-swellable portion and said at least one optical fiber.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has a corrugated surface which is adjacent to said gel.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein at least one gel-swellable portion contacts said inner surface of said outer layer.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is one of a copolymer or terpolymer of polyethelene.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said gel-swellable portion swells more than 10% at 85°C.

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12. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said gel is a polyolefin oil based gel.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is a polyolefin swellable material.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein the material of said at least one gel-swellable portion is softer than the material of said outer layer.

15. - 28. (CANCELED).

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A fiber optic cable, comprising:
an outer layer;
at least one optical fiber;
a water resistant gel disposed between said at least one optical fiber and said outer layer;
and
at least one gel-swellable portion proximate to one of an inner surface of said outer layer and an outer surface of said optical fiber;
wherein said gel-swellable portion is made from a material softer than said one of said inner surface and said outer surface to which said gel-swellable portion is proximate to, and
wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has a density less than 0.90 g/cc.

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30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is a continuous layer.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has an uneven thickness.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has a smooth surface.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has a groove in a surface of said at least one gel-swellable portion.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is made from at least one longitudinally running strip.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, further comprising a second gel-swellable portion positioned between said at least one gel-swellable portion and the other of said outer surface and said inner surface.

36. (CANCELLED)

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37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is one of a copolymer or terpolymer of polyethelene.

38. (CANCELLED)

39. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said gel is a polyolefin oil based gel.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion is a polyolefin swellable material.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion has a corrugated surface.

42. (CANCELED).

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion swells more than 10% at 85°C.

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44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein
said at least one gel-swellable portion contacts said one of an inner surface of said outer layer
and an outer surface of said optical fiber.